

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY

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FOLLOWING REPAT KUALA LUMPUR 1013 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BANGKOK

JAKARTA MANILA SINGAPORE TOKYO CINCPAC 24 FEB 76.

QUOTE

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR ASEAN MY RP

SUBJ: MALAYSIA, THE PHILIPPINES, AND THE TREATY OF AMITY AND
FRIENDSHIP

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 975 (DTG 230858Z FEB 76)

1. SUMMARY. MALAYSIAN REPORTING ON ASEAN SUMMIT TALKS
NOW DEFINITELY UPBEAT AND DEVOID OF ANTI-FILIPINO OVER-
TONES THAT HAD CHARACTERIZED EARLIER COVERAGE OF EVENTS
BY SELF-STYLED GOM PUBLICIST/PROPAGANDIST NOORDIN SOPIEE.
ACCORDING LOCAL PRESS, NO MAJOR ROABLOCKS FORESEEN TO
ASEAN HEADS OF GOVERNMENT SIGNING THREE MAJOR DOCUMENTS,
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INCLUDING TREATY OF AMITY AND FRIENDSHIP. MALAYSIAN

OFFICIAL INDICATES COMPROMISE IN RESOLVING FILIPINO/MALAYSIAN DEADLOCK OVER CLARIFICATIONS OF ARBITRATION CLAUSE IN LATTER DOCUMENT REFLECTS MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY ACCOMMODATION THAT WILL BENEFIT ASEAN AS WHOLE. END SUMMARY.

2. "NEW STRAITS TIMES" (NST) CONTINUES PROMINENT PLACEMENT OF REPORTS FROM BALI ON ASEAN SUMMIT NEGOTIATIONS BY INFLUENTIAL EDITORIAL WRITER NOORDIN SOPIEE. ACCORDING TO SOPIEE, HEADS OF GOVERNMENT WILL SIGN THREE DOCUMENTS FEB 24; "THE TREATY OF AMITY AND CO-OPERATION," THE "DECLARATION OF ASEAN CONCORD" AND AN AGREEMENT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ASEAN SECRETARIAT.

3. NST FEB 24 FRONTPAGED REPORT CO-AUTHORED BY SOPIEE AND DAHARI ALI CITING "BREAKTHROUGHS" AS OF FEB 23 IN VARIOUS AREAS OF DELIVERATIONS, INCLUDING STATEMENTS FROM "RELIABLE SOURCES" TO EFFECT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS AGREED ASEAN DECLARATION WOULD BE CALLED "THE DECLARATION OF ASEAN CONCORD," WHICH WAS DESCRIBED AS A "NON-SUBSTANTIVE CONCESSION" TO THE PHILIPPINES. DECLARATION REPORTEDLY WOULD INCLUDE CLAUSE ON RENUNCIATION OF USE OF FORCE IN INTRA-ASEAN DISPUTES, WHICH WRITERS TERMED AS "REGARDED BY SOME AS A MAJOR STEP TOWARDS AN ASEAN NON-AGGRESSION PACT." IT ALSO WOULD SPECIFY THAT FUTURE SUMMITS WOULD BE CONVENED WHEN A NEED ARISES RATHER THAN ON A REGULAR BASIS. DRAFT DECLARATION AGREED TO BY FOREIGN MINISTERS REPORTEDLY CALLS FOR SETTLEMENT OF ALL DISPUTES AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE AND NOTES AGREEMENT THAT "CONSTITUTION AND MACHINERY OF ASEAN WOULD BE RE-EXAMINED TO STRENGTHEN THEM". FINALLY, DECLARATION SUPPOSEDLY EXPRESSES A JOINT COMMITMENT TO CO-OPERATION IN INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION AND CALLS FOR GREATER JOINT EFFORTS TO FIGHT DRUG TRAFFICKING. IT WOULD NOT, HOWEVER, ENVISAGE ANY DEFENSE OR SECURITY ARRANGEMENT UNDER ASEAN AEGIS.

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4. SAME ARTICLE REPORTED MEETING OF ECONOMIC MINISTERS IN KUALA LUMPUR MARCH 8-9 WILL DISCUSS "THE PROJECT FOR INDUSTRIAL COMPLEMENTATION (SIC)," AS WELL AS FINANCIAL CO-OPERATION, JOINT COMMODITY ARRANGEMENTS AND BUFFER STOCK SCHEMES ON SUCH RAW MATERIALS AS RUBBER, SISAL, ETC.

5. SEPARATE BACKPAGED REPORT BY SUPIEE DATED
FEB 23 DESCRIBED HOW IMPASSE BETWEEN MALAYSIA
AND PHILIPPINES OVER ARBITRATION CLAUSE OF TREATY OF
AMITY AND FRIENDSHIP WAS RESOLVED WHEN SINGAPORE
INTRODUCED A FORMULA BOTH SIDES FOUND FULLY ACCEPTABLE.
SOPIEE COMMENTED THAT "IT IS EASY TO ARGUE FROM THE
AIR OF ACCOMPLISHMENT THAT HAS INFECTED THE MALAYSIAN
CAMP THAT MALAYSIA HAS WON" BUT CITED COMMENTS OF UNIDENTIFIED MALAYSIAN OFFICIAL
THAT "WE ARE NOT INTERESTED IN SCORING POINTS. THIS IS
NOT A GAME. WE HAVEN'T WON, ASEAN HAS WON. WE HAVE
REACHED AN AMICABLE SETTLEMENT ON A BASIS WHICH MAKES
EVERYBODY HAPPY."

6. COMMENT: SOPIEE CLEARLY IS BACK-PEDALING
AND HIS REPORTS ARE NOW MORE POSITIVE IN TONE AND
DEVOID OF ANTI-FILIPINO SLANT THAT HAD CHARACTERIZED
EARLIER REPORTING/COMMENTARY. THIS SUGGESTS NOT ONLY
THAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN TALKS ON SMOOTHING
OVER CONTENTIOUS ISSUES, BUT THAT PROBABLY SOMEONE
ON GOM SIDE HAS GIVEN WORD TO SOPIEE THAT TONE OF
REPORTING NOW SHOULD REFLECT "SWEETNESS AND LIGHT" AND
PERVASIVENESS OF "SPIRIT OF ASEAN". UNDERHILL UNQUOTE
KISSINGER

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